

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DJIBOU 00349 140801Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02  
MCT-01 H-01 INR-10 PM-05 NSC-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00  
A-01 OPR-02 /088 W  
-----097832 141037Z /23S

R 131515Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 752  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
USMISSION USUN NY  
USCINCEUR  
CINCUSNAVEUR  
CINCPAC  
/CINCPACFLT  
COMIDEASTFOR  
USS DAVIS

CONFIDENTIAL DJIBOUTI 349

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV, PINS, ASEC, DJ  
SUBJ: MALAISE GROWS IN DJIBOUTI

REF: DJIBOUTI 299 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. HEAVY NIGHT-TIME SECURITY MEASURES INVOLVING  
SEARCHES OF VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS HAVE AGAIN MADE THEIR  
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APPEARANCE IN DJIBOUTI. DJIBOUTI LEADERS MAINTAIN THAT THESE  
ACTIVITIES ARE ROUTINE, BUT THEY ARE PROBABLY RELATED TO THE  
PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO VISIT CERTAIN COUNTRIES ON THE ARABIAN  
PENINSULA. SOME TRACTS HAVE BEGUN TO SHOW UP, CALLING FOR  
REJECTION OF BOTH PRESIDENT HASSAN GOULED AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER  
AHMED DINI. DEMONSTRATIONS AND COUNTER-DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE ALSO  
TAKEN PLACE RECENTLY, INDICATING CONSIDERABLE EFFERVESENCE IN

THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

2. ON MARCH 6, POLICE WERE CALLED OUT TO ROUND UP A NUMBER OF TRACTS APPEARING IN VARIOUS LOCAL TOWNSHIPS. THESE ONE-PAGE TRACTS, ONE OF WHICH WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY, APPEAR PRIMARILY DIRECTED AGAINST THE FRENCH PRESENCE IN DJIBOUTI AND THOSE PEOPLE ALLEGEDLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM BEING IN DJIBOUTI. THE TRACTS ARE UNSIGNED, DO NOT INDICATE WHICH PARTY IS FAVORED, AND GENERALLY LOOK LIKE A FAIRLY AMATEURISH EFFORT TO DRUM UP SOME EXCITEMENT. DJIBOUTI MINISTER OF INTERIOR MOUMIN BAHDON DOES NOT RELISH THIS KIND OF AMUSEMENT, AND HIS MEN ARE QUITE EFFICIENT ROUNDING UP ANYTHING THAT LOOKS LIKE ANTI-GOVERNMENT LITERATURE. NO ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

3. ON THURSDAY, MARCH 9, A QUIET DEMONSTRATION WAS HELD IN THE ARHIBA TOWNSHIP OF DJIBOUTI, A SECTION OF TOWN INHABITATED EXCLUSIVELY BY MEMBERS OF THE AFAR ETHNIC GROUP. THE DEMONSTRATION WAS TO CELEBRATE THE FALL OF JIJIGA TO ETHIOPIAN TROOPS. THE ORGANIZERS OF THAT SPECTACLE ARE UNKNOWN TO THIS EMBASSY, BUT THERE IS PROBABLY SOME DIRECT TIE TO BE FOUND TO THE ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY.

4. THE FOLLOWING EVENING, A LARGE COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION WAS ORGANIZED, REPORTEDLY BY THE SOMALI EMBASSY, TO PROTEST THE AFAR DEMONSTRATION OF THE PREVIOUS NIGHT. POLICE WERE CALLED IN TO QUELL THE DISTURBANCES AND TO RESCUE SEVERAL ETHIOPIAN  
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RESIDENTS. PARTICIPANTS ALLEGEDLY WERE ONLY THOSE OF SOMALI GROUPS NATIVE TO THE HARGEISA REGION AND SURROUNDING AREAS (GADABOURSI AND ISSAK), WITH FEW, IF ANY, ISSAS TAKING PART. SOME ARRESTS WERE MADE.

5. MINISTER OF INTERIOR MOUMIN BAHDON EXPLAINED TO CHARGE ON 12 MARCH THAT HE IS TAKING STRONG MEASURES TO PREVENT DISTURBANCES RELATED TO THE SOMSRI DEFEAT IN THE OGADEN. THE ALLEGED LACK OF INTEREST IN THE DEMONSTRATIONS AMONG THE ISSAS INDICATES A PRONOUNCED NEW TILT IN FAVOR OF THE VICTORIOUS ETHIOPIANS AND A DESIRE TO DISENTANGLE THEMSELVES FROM ACTIVITIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA. AS SUCH, THESE ARE PROBABLY A FAIRLY HELATHY SIGN THAT THE END OF THE OGADEN WAR IS BRINGING SOME NEEDED REALISM TO THE LOCAL POPULATION.

CLARKE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROPAGANDA, SECURITY CONTROLS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 mar 1978  
**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** MALAISE GROWS IN DJIBOUTI  
**TAGS:** PDEV, PINS, ASEC, DJ, (HASSAN GOULED), (AHMED DINI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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